AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (currently amended): A transfer device comprising:

a carriage rotating along a ring-shaped fixed horizontal rail, said carriage comprising an outer ring~~,~~ and an inner ring having a common vertical axis, and wheels rotatably fixed to and sandwiched between the outer ring and the inner ring, ~~and~~said wheels running on the rail and moving with respect to the rail together with the outer and inner rings;

vertical columns fixed rigidly to the inner ring of the carriage which encloses the vertical columns, and extending vertically therefrom;

a table having a stroke capable of moving above and/or below the carriage, and lifting up and down along the vertical columns, said table being surrounded by the vertical columns;

a drivingly running mechanism incorporated into the carriage so that the carriage can be run; and

a drivingly lifting mechanism incorporated into the vertical columns or the table so that the table can be lifted up and down.

2-3 (canceled)

4 (currently amended): The transfer device according to claim 1, wherein the carriage is referred to as a first carriage, and the rail is referred to as a first rail, said transfer device further comprising at least another carriage having the same configuration as the first carriage and at least another ring-shaped horizontal rail having the same configuration as the first rail, wherein the horizontal rails are vertically arranged in parallel at a predetermined interval, the vertical columns are connected rigidly to the carriages, and each horizontal rail is fixed to a floor where an object to be carried by the transfer device is placed or stored.

5-11 (canceled)

12 (previously presented): The transfer device according to claim 1, wherein the table has a size for accommodating one object.

13 (previously presented): A transfer device structure comprising an upper transfer device and a lower transfer device, each defined in claim 1, wherein between the upper and lower transfer devices, a carry in-and-out floor is provided for bring objects in or out of both the upper and lower transfer devices, wherein no vertical column crosses the floor, said table of the upper transfer device being configured to carry an object under the table, said table of the lower transfer device being configured to carry an object above the table.

14 (previously presented): The transfer device structure according to claim 13, wherein the upper transfer device ant the lower transfer device are vertically aligned.